

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,  
VICTORIA, B.C., 1st November, 1882.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honor to report that on the 9th August I visited the Bella Coola Indians, who reside at the head of the North Bentinck Arm, and was soon after my arrival there waited upon by the chief, On-chan-ny (Johnny) and those of his people who were then at home, and had a long and friendly conversation with them on the subject of their reserves. The chief said he wanted a large piece of land, as they made their living by the sale of potatoes and vegetables. He also said that he had been told by his father that the whole country was theirs, but that now he knows it belongs to the Queen, and he was satisfied because she is their chief and has always protected them.

I told him that the Government had no wish to curtail the land necessary for their use, but, on the contrary, were anxious that every place worth cultivating should be given to them, as well as their village sites, fisheries and enough timber lands for all their requirements. He then accompanied me while I made an exhaustive examination of the surrounding country, and with his entire concurrence, and evidently to his satisfaction, I made the following reserves :

No. 1.

Bella-Coola contains 2,800 acres and includes the lower and upper villages, known respectively as Kum-cuts and Sin-a-tle. Within it is embraced the entire valley of the Bella Coola River for a length of over two miles, the centre of which is much broken by the constant changing of the channel during freshets. The land though light is a rich alluvial deposit and highly suitable to the growth of potatoes and other vegetables, which is taken advantage of to a larger extent by these Indians than by any others on the coast. About 40 or 50 acres have, in patches, been cultivated on this reserve, but with a little more labor several hundred can be easily made available.

There is an abundant supply of timber, some of it of large growth.

The Bella Coola, which flows through this reserve, contributes a bountiful supply of both salmon and oolachans, and renders this reserve of special value to the Indians.

No. 2.

Noose-seck, a fishing station at the mouth of the Noose-seck River, which enters the North Bentinck Arm about a mile north of Loivence Point. It contains 20 acres, and is a favorite camping ground for Indians when hunting and gathering berries.

No. 3.

Tal-e-o-my, a reserve at the mouth of the Tal-e-o-my River, in the South Bentinck Arm, contains 730 acres, mostly land of poor quality.

A few acres near the southern boundary have been cultivated, and about 85 acres of saltmarsh would furnish a scanty amount of hay.

A large supply of salmon is taken here and also a limited number of oolachans during the season.

A few families of the Bella Coola tribe reside on this reserve, and are presided over by a sub-chief named Sune-up-me.

No. 4.

Kwat-le-na, on the right bank of the river of that name, is about six miles east of Bentinck Arm. It contains 65 acres, about half of which is low, bottom land,